Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ITC-01 AGRE-00 /100 W

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R 151035Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8089

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2181

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, HU

SUBJECT: ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY REGULATIONS

REF: (A) WARSAW 1772, (B) BUDAPEST 0596

- 1. EMBASSY BUDAPEST WOULD LIKE TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH AMBASSADOR DAVIES' REQUEST FOR LONG, HARD LOOK AT HOW USG MIGHT APPROACH FLEXIBLY PROBLEM OF PROTECTING DOMESTIC BUSINESS INTERESTS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF DESIRE TO INCREASE TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPE.
- 2. THIS SMALL COUNTRY (HUNGARY) HAS HAD NO GOLD-CART CASES AND IS UNLIKELY TO CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN ANY SECTOR, BUT GOH HAS COMMITTED ITSLEF TO INCREASING BY 1980 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS SHARE OF TRADE WITH WEST TO 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL. IN A COUNTRY WHERE FOREIGN TRADE IS SUCH A SIGNIFICANT PART OF GNP (BY SOME ESTIMATES 40 PERCENT), THIS HAS REQUIRED MAJOR DECISION COMMITTING GOH BOTH POLITICALLY AND FINANCIALLY, AS IT ALLOCATES RESOURCES.

3. HUNGARIANS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL OF

U.S. DESIRE TO EXPAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE. THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THIS SKEPTICISM AT ALL LEVELS AND QUESTIONED DUPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE DOWNEY VERY CLOSELY IN LATE 1976 REGARDING U.S. INTENTIONS. MAGYARS CONSIDER THEMSELVES AS FAIR, FREE-TRADERS UNDER GATT RULES. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE CASE, BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES USG MUST SEEK TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE IN PRAGMATIC MANNER DESIGNED TO OBTAIN RESULTS ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS IF WE ARE NOT TO DISCOURAGE THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT FROM ACCEPTING ADVICE FROM SOMEWHAT-MORE WESTERN-ORIENTED TECHNOCRATS. THE 1976 TEXTILE AGREEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, LENDS SUPPORT TO IDEA THAT MAGYARS WILLING TO DISCUSS SERIOUSLY MARKET DISTRUPTION WHILE GETTING THEIR BACKS UP OVER UNILATERAL (AND UNPREDICTABLE) USG ACTIONS. FOR INSTANCE, HUNGARY WAS JUST ENTERING SHOE MARKET (AT SOME EXPENSE) WHEN ENTIRE QUESTION REOPENED AGAIN IN LATE 1976.

5. IN SUM, WHILE EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND RELATIONS WITH U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND CONGRESS COMPLEX AND REQUIRE BALANCING OF INTERESTS, WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT PROPOSED CHANGES TO COUNTER-VAILING DUTIES, REOPENING OF SHOE ISSUE, AND CONTINUED LACK OF MFN HAVE RESULTED IN SOME SKEPTICISM ON PART OF MAGYARS THAT USG IS SERIOUS ABOUT DOING BUSINESS ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. EVEN IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, OUR LONG-TERM, LARGER INTERESTS IN EASTERN EUROPE DEMAND THAT WE DISPEL THIS NOTION.

MUDD

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